

HONORING AMELIA BOYNTON
ROBINSON

HON. MARC A. VEASEY

OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, March 16, 2015

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Amelia Boynton Robinson, a woman who made vast contributions to the civil rights movement.

Amelia Boynton was born on August 18, 1911 in Savannah, Georgia, and was first exposed to the fight for equal rights at the age of 9, when she joined her mother in the women's suffrage movement. She learned four principles of life that she still carries on today: daily praying, always helping and showing compassion for others, standing up for the morally right, and becoming economically independent.

After graduating from Tuskegee University, she also studied at Tennessee State, Virginia State, and Temple University. She became a registered voter in 1932, and was one of the first people to pass tests used as a barrier to prevent Southern blacks from being able to vote.

In 1930, Amelia met Dallas County extension agent Samuel Boynton. The two shared the desire to improve the lives of African-Americans in their community. As a result, the Boynton's became co-founders of the Dallas County Voters League in 1933. In 1936, Amelia and Samuel married and had two sons, Bill, Jr. and Bruce Carver. After losing her husband in 1963, Amelia was not deterred from her commitment to improve the lives of African Americans.

On February 29, 1964, Amelia Boynton ran on the Democratic ticket for a seat in Congress representing the state of Alabama, becoming the first African-American woman to run as a Democratic candidate as well as the first woman to run in the state's history.

On March 7, 1965, at the age of 53, Amelia joined fellow civil rights activist Martin Luther King, Jr. in organizing the marches from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama. On that fateful day, 600 peaceful protestors tried to cross the Edmund Pettus Bridge and were met with the violence known as "Bloody Sunday." Forever immortalized by photograph, the nation saw Amelia Boynton beaten unconscious and left for dead on this tragic day.

"Bloody Sunday" prompted swift action by Congress and resulted in President Lyndon B. Johnson signing the Voting Rights Act on August 6, 1965. President Johnson invited Amelia as a guest of honor during the signing of this important civil rights legislation.

After the signing of the Voting Rights Act, Amelia continued her leadership across the nation as a writer, speaker, and social change ambassador.

In 1990, Boynton was awarded the Martin Luther King, Jr. Medal of Freedom. She continued to tour the United States on behalf of the Schiller Institute, which continues to defend the human and moral rights of all.

And on March 7, 2015, I was proud to have walked alongside Amelia Boynton during the 50th Anniversary of the March in Selma, Alabama. I ask my colleagues who also traced the very footsteps that Amelia took to pledge to go beyond just remembering those who sacrificed for us and resolve to carry on their legacy with action.

HONORING GWEN McCLAIN

HON. JASON SMITH

OF MISSOURI
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, March 16, 2015

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Gwen McClain of Steeleville, Missouri, for her outstanding achievement of receiving the Patriot's Pen Award. The National Patriot's Pen Essay Contest is an annual competition sponsored by the Veterans of Foreign Wars. While over 200 essays were submitted in the state of Missouri, Gwen's stood out above the rest.

The theme of the 2015 National Patriot's Pen Contest was "Why I appreciate America's Veterans." Students were encouraged to examine America's history, along with their own experiences in modern American society. As a recipient of this award, Gwen has shown remarkable creativity and maturity.

It is my pleasure to congratulate Gwen McClain on her great accomplishment before the U.S. House of Representatives.

HONORING BRANDAN SCOTT
FITZGERALD

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, March 16, 2015

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Brandan Scott Fitzgerald. Brandan is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 314, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Brandan has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Brandan has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Brandan has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Brandan Scott Fitzgerald for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL
DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, March 16, 2015

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$18,152,457,339,107.97. We've added \$7,525,580,290,194.89 to our debt in 6 years. This is over \$7.5 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

A TRIBUTE TO ANN NEILSON—28TH
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
WOMAN OF THE YEAR

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, March 16, 2015

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Women's History Month. Each year, we pay special tribute to the contributions and sacrifices made by our nation's women. It is an honor to pay homage to outstanding women who are making a difference in my Congressional District. I would like to recognize a remarkable woman, Ann Neilson of La Cañada Flintridge, California.

Born in Los Angeles and raised in Manhattan Beach, Ms. Neilson and her husband, Bob, have lived in La Cañada Flintridge for over fifty years. Well-regarded as a straightforward, tireless community leader, Ann is involved in numerous charitable organizations in La Cañada Flintridge. She has been a Docent at the Lanterman House for over two decades, and is a past and present Board member. She is active in the Assistance League of Flintridge (ALF), a nonprofit service organization of volunteers committed to serving the needs of the community through philanthropic programs developed and administered by its members. Ms. Neilson was Chair of the College Application Essay Committee, Chair of the Retired Service Volunteer Committee, a volunteer at the Bargain Box Thrift Shop, and a member of the Budget Committee. Ann's current project with ALF is Chair of their impressive Summer School program for La Cañada Flintridge children grades one through eight, a project that the league subsidizes.

Another organization that is near and dear to her heart, Ann has been active in the Girl Scouts of America for nearly forty-six years. She served as a Leader, was President of the Mt. Wilson/Vista Girl Scout Council for six years, Director and Co-Director of two Girl Scout Day Camps in La Cañada Flintridge, and Co-Organizer of the 100th Anniversary Girl Scout Float for the 2012 Pasadena Tournament of Roses Parade. Ms. Neilson is also very involved in the La Cañada Flintridge Tournament of Roses Association, established in 1979, where she is a Founding Member. The association has produced volunteer-made floats for the Pasadena Tournament of Roses Parades for nearly four decades, winning awards in the majority of the parades. She served as President for three years and now serves as Past President.

Married for nearly sixty years, Ann and Bob have four children, Beth, Karen, Nancy and Jim, and one grandchild, Emily.

I ask all Members to join me in honoring an exceptional woman of California's 28th Congressional District, Ann Neilson.

TRIBUTE TO DORIS DIDDY

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, March 16, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Doris Diddy for her many years of service at the bank in Menlo, Iowa.